

criminal penalties. I can't say that we treated S.E. Copple fairly versus this. We...obviously I would have liked to have seen a stiffer penalty. There are many other cases of injustice in terms of the level of penalty. I can't take the broad view of what we need to do across the board, it is too much for me. But in this particular issue, I know that the misdemeanor is inadequate and it has proven inadequate. And other states that have moved to a felony have found it to be effective. The felony has worked. It has been able to drive out dog fighting in those states that have adopted it. Where the dog fighting has moved is in to the misdemeanor states. And that is not me talking, that is the people that know the issue. And we can talk to them back behind the glass. The people that work with the animals day in and day out know that dog fighting has been on the increase in this state since other states have moved to felonies and driven dog fighting out of their state, and they have looked for a safe haven, and that safe haven has been identified as Nebraska, among other states with misdemeanors. So I can only base on the facts what is the best course of action in this particular case, and I think a felony is justified. As for the falconry issue, Senator Chambers, I know you're going to be hitting me with the falconry thing. But just remember, when we had that bill, was it last year or the year before, and you opposed the bill, I think...I may have been the only other vote that was with you, against the bill. I anticipated this day and this very moment coming forward when my dog fight bill would be up and Senator Chambers would be asking me about falconry. So I'm the one guy on the floor who think, perhaps who can say, ah ha, I'm with you on that. So there is no problem there. But, nevertheless, we have a particular problem, particular issue, and I would like to keep focused on that. I also want to note Senator Barrett, Senator McFarland, Senator Marsh, Senator Lynch, and I understand Senator Pirsch will be adding their names to the bill, all have helped in trying to deal with the issue and I do appreciate their assistance, along with Senator Chizek and the members of the Judiciary Committee, and also Senator Chambers, who has had particular concerns about the criminal penalty section, but has been most cooperative as we have tried to come with the proper language to deal with the concerns he and I both have. With that, I'd be happy to subject myself to other questions that may come forward.

PRESIDENT: Senator Landis, please, then Senator Chambers.